



A-3 Recommendation Form



Date: 4 / 28 / 16

A3 Members Present:

Marie Abel

Jeff Utsinger

Mike Harrington

Linda Van Der Leest

Todd Ehlert

Dan Rakestraw

Concern brought to the A3 Team:

The wrestling program would like to add 6th graders to the Middle School wrestling team.

Concern initiated by: Jon Murray

Considerations:

The 2015-2016 school year was the Middle School's first year competing in IESA wrestling. A-3 has asked for feedback regarding adding 6th graders to the team from the GMS Athletic Directors as well as the GMS BLT. A-3 met with Jon Murray, John Petrov, and Travis Mackey on April 14th and discussed financial needs and their wrestling vision. No additional coaches would be needed. Adding 6th graders is a need in the eyes of the coaches because of the inability to fill the weight classes.

A3 recommendation:

For wrestling only and so long as it's a need and will not infringe extra costs on the District, A-3 recommends that 6th graders be able to participate on the Middle School IESA team. Please see attached: GMS BLT 6th Grade Wrestling Response, 4-14-16 Agenda, and Murray 6th Grade Wrestling Request.



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A3 recommendation cont.

3/16/16

GMS BLT – Response to 6th Grade Wrestling inquiry from A3 (initiated from Jon Murray, GHS Varsity Wrestling Coach)

A review of the request for 6th grade wrestling at GMS was conducted from November 1st through March 1st, and included feedback from the GMS Athletic Directors, GMS Administration, and the GMS BLT. There are many positives to adding opportunities for students like a wrestling program at 6th grade, including increased student involvement, program (wrestling) extension, and academic success related to increased involvement. The GMS BLT also has the following concerns with adding 6th grade sports, specifically wrestling:

- 1.) There is a larger question on school-based sports that we would like to review further, specifically on the topic of the 6th grade child development. The GMS BLT will look at this question to see if it is a viable goal for 16-17.
- 2.) After review with our Heartland Conference Athletic Directors, and the conference Bi-laws, “The Heartland Conference does not allow 6th grade participation in sporting events...” the only exception was Cross Country, where a student in 6th grade can be on the team but can not participate in any MS Varsity meet for points.
- 3.) If we did allow for wrestling at 6th grade, which other sports will be considered for participation at 6th grade as well? There is an equity question that was discussed and would come up from students, parents, and coaches in basketball, track, cross country, and volleyball.
- 4.) Title 9, male and female event opportunities, would need to be reviewed carefully to ensure compliance with the law, and ensure the fairness in opportunity for both sexes.
- 5.) Financial costs are a factor, and any consideration of adding an activity would need to be reviewed with District Finance to review actual costs as related to overall funding.

If this request would benefit from further study, the GMS BLT is requesting that the A3 team complete a 3-year review of 6th grade sport opportunities, using both positive impact surveys and reviews, and collecting feedback on the concerns topics above.

Thank you,

Nate O’Dell, Principal
&
Geneseo Building Leadership Team

A-3 Team Meeting
Thursday, April 14th
Geneseo Middle School
6:45-7:20am

Facilitator: Jeff & Marie
Recorder: Marie

Team Norms

Will respectfully give and receive straight talk.

Meeting discussions will be confidential.

Will value team member's time.

Will create and distribute an agenda prior to all meetings.

Will all support final decisions made by the Team.

1. Jon Murray, John Petrov, & Travis Mackey - 6th grade wrestling
 - a. Murray
 - i. Isn't first request, requested all the way back with Domino
 - ii. Remains part of Jon's vision of the program especially w/ having 6th grade in GMS, establish a system that will ultimately improve at the Varsity level, IESA
 - iii. Family - youth club goes through 6th grade
 - iv. Best experience for 6th grade would be to be able to wrestle in their school
 - v. Some current 6th graders are going to Alleman to wrestle with a club there because they can wrestle other MS
 - vi. It's a sport of weight classes, not age
 - b. Mackey
 - i. Financial - not add any additional coaches
 - ii. Uniforms - pass down, so it would be absorbed
 - iii. 6th graders fill voids in the weight classes that 7th and 8th can't fill
 - iv. With outside people coaching, it causes it a lot of headaches
 - v. Other sports wanting to add 6th grade - need vs. want
 - c. Questions
 - i. Kids leaving school early? 2:40pm
 - ii. IESA Team Competition at state
 - iii. If you need, will you ask for 5th grade at some point? Would be the ideal scenario, 5th graders would continue to go to the club for right now
 - iv. If a 6th graders beats out an 8th grader, does that 8th grader quit? Jon is excited for that happen
 - v. Wrestling room space? We have enough room
 - vi. Title 9 (boys and girls sports)? A 6th grade girl could wrestle if they wanted

- vii. Willing to work with other conflicts...band/choir?
 1. Teacher and coach will discuss, depends on the level of competition, being able to do both at the same time (go from one to the next), get parents involved for transportation
 2. Dual meet - go to school activity, Regionals/State series - is the issue
 3. All day event - can't make a promise
 4. Keep the MS philosophy!
- d. Summarize
 - i. No major financial costs, uniforms
 - ii. Kids would practice right after school
 - iii. Fill all the weight classes
 - iv. Would work out conflicts like normally
 - v. Adding 6th grade sports - teachers, parents
 1. Each sport is a different animal
 2. Can't be afraid to tell a parent that this is our program
 3. Weight class need is the only reason

https://docs.google.com/a/geneseoschools.org/document/d/1bv_IdzmzdTx-sNGhwJbiwdY_Jk2se0zR6BLLQTubNbk/edit?usp=sharing

2. Next meeting - April 28th (GHS), May 12th (GMS)